

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 221433

FOR MATLOCK FROM GARRISON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. IRONICALLY, LEN WILLEMS NAME WAS ACCIDENTLY LEFT OFF THE MESSAGE TO MARY LITVINENKO WHEN IT WAS TYPED. PLEASE ADD HIS NAME AND GIVE HER HIS SPECIAL BEST WISHES.

2. MOSCOW'S 14023 IS TIMELY IN OUR EFFORTS TO GET A FIX ON SOVIET PERCEPTIONS AS GROMYKO'S UNGA VISIT DRAWS NEAR. OUR BILATERAL TALKS WITH HIM COULD BE THE CENTERPIECE IN SETTING THE SCENE FOR RELATIONS FOLLOWING THE ELECTIONS. IT IS PRESENTLY OUR IMPRESSION THAT THE KREMLIN, WITH SOME MIX OF CONCERN AND UNCERTAINTY, DESIRES TO SEE AN INFUSION OF FRESH MOMENTUM TO THE RELATIONSHIP EARLY IN THE NEXT ADMINISTRATION. FURTHER INDICATIONS OF HOW SOVIET PERCEPTIONS MAY BE FIRING UP, AND YOUR ASSESSMENT, WILL BE MOST WELCOME. IN THIS REGARD, WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT OF WHAT EFFECT SOVIET FRUSTRATION OVER US SUCCESSES IN PLACES LIKE THE MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA COULD HAVE ON THE FUTURE OF US-USSR RELATIONS. WE NOW
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UNDERSTAND THAT GROMYKO WILL BE COMING HERE FOR APPOINTMENTS

ON SEPTEMBER 24, BUT THIS IS NOT YET FIRM.

3. RE MARY LITVINENKO'S 30-YEAR CERTIFICATE, WE ARE UNABLE TO FIND ANY RECORD THAT THE EMBASSY ORDERED A CERTIFICATE AND PIN FOR HER. WE COULD PROBABLY HAVE PRIED A CERTIFICATE OUT OF THE SYSTEM WITHOUT AN ORDER FROM THE POST, BUT NOT THE PIN. WE ARE TOLD THAT THE FAM REFERENCE FOR ORDERING BOTH IS 3 FAM 642.7(D)(2). THE ORDER SHOULD GO TO PER/MGT/EX, BUT PLEASE SEND US A COPY FOR FOLLOW-UP.

4. APPRECIATE YOUR 13993. LAST SENTENCE PUZZLES US, HOWEVER. IS SOMETHING MISSING? DOES IT MEAN SOVIETS WILL PRESS MARINE INSURANCE MATTERS OF INTEREST TO THEM (SUCH AS REINSURANCE, ETC.)? WOULD APPRECIATE CLARIFICATION.

5. FIVE SENIOR CONGRESSIONAL STAFFERS, WHO WILL ATTEND THE FIRST DAY AND A HALF OF THE ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL OFFICER'S CONFERENCE AT GARMISCH, WILL BE TRAVELLING TO A FEW EAST EUROPEAN POSTS THEREAFTER ACCOMPANIED BY PAUL STAHNKE OF H. THEY TENTATIVELY PLAN TO BE IN MOSCOW OCTOBER 1. I REALIZE THAT KEN SKOUG AND BILL FARRAND WILL STILL BE IN GARMISCH, BUT HOPE IT WILL NEVERTHELESS BE POSSIBLE TO WORK OUT A PROGRAM FOR THEM, INCLUDING TALKS WITH SOVIET OFFICIALS. THE GROUP WILL INCLUDE STAN MARCUS AND BOB BEST. ALL ARE INTERESTED IN EAST-WEST TRADE. SOME PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN DEVELOPING THE TRADE ACT, AND WOULD BE INSTRUMENTAL IN WORKING OUT ANY AMENDMENTS. YOU WILL BE GETTING A CABLE ON THIS THROUGH REGULAR CHANNELS, BUT I WANTED TO GIVE SOME ADVANCE NOTICE. PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF THE OCTOBER 1 DATE LOOKS OK.

6. ----- "ART WORKS AT SPASO" - JANE THOMPSON ON LEAVE UNTIL SEPTEMBER 13. HER OFFICE INDICATED THAT ALTHOUGH THE ART WORKS WERE PERSONALLY LOANED TO THE AMBASSADOR AND MRS. STOESSEL UNTIL MAY 1977, THEY DON'T BELIEVE THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM WILL HAVE ANY OBJECTION TO THEIR REMAINING AFTER THE DEPARTURE OF THE AMBASSADOR. CONFIDENTIAL

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MRS. THOMPSON WILL, OF COURSE, HAVE TO CONFIRM THIS WITH THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM UPON HER RETURN. WILL RAISE AMBASSADOR'S REQUEST FOR BONN ART COLLECTION AT THAT TIME.

7. PLEASE LET US KNOW WHEN YOU DELIVER THE NOTE ON THE SUBMARINE COLLISION AS THERE IS PRESS INTEREST HERE.

8. FYI. THE ARRIVAL OF THE PILOT FROM TOKYO WILL BE

DELAYED A BIT. NEEDLESS TO SAY ANY REPORTING YOU HAVE--
EVEN THE NEGATIVE REPORT THAT NOTHING HAS BEEN SAID
PUBLICALLY--WOULD BE USEFUL. ALSO YOU MIGHT WANT TO HAVE
SOMEONE LISTEN TO VOA RUSSIAN TO CHECK ON THEIR HANDLING
OF THE STORY.

9. ANYTHING NEW ON AMBASSADOR'S CALLS ASIDE FROM GROMYKO?
YOU SHOULD BE GETTING AN INSTRUCTION ON THE SIGNAL. WE
CONSIDERED GETTING OUT SOMETHING ON THE UNHELPFUL POSTURE
MOSCOW HAS TAKEN CONCERNING THE SECRETARY'S TRIP, BUT
THOUGHT ON BALANCE THAT AMBASSADOR WOULD PROBABLY RAISE
THIS ANYHOW AND AN ATTEMPT TO GET AN INSTRUCTION MIGHT
ONLY COMPLICATE THINGS. ROBINSON

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